



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

No. 0000006



Public Health Service  
Agency for Toxic Substances  
and Disease Registry

Memorandum

Date January 6, 1986

151783

From Acting Director  
Office of Health Assessment

Subject Riverdale Chemical Company, Chicago Heights, Illinois - Preliminary Review  
of Phase I Remedial Investigation

To Ms. Louise A. Fabinski  
Public Health Advisor  
EPA, Region V  
Chicago, Illinois

Document Reviewed:

Transmittal : Preliminary Assessment, Phase I Remedial Investigation  
Riverdale Chemical Company, Chicago Heights, Illinois, prepared by Mark L.  
Hinckey, Project Manager, dated December 11, 1985.

Recommendations and Comments:

Based on the review of the document noted above, comments and recommendations will be discussed in two parts: the first section to discuss the presence of 2,3,7,8- TCDD, and the second section to discuss the presence of HSL organics and pesticides. Comments are tempered with the fact that QA QC data have not been received as of this date.

1. 2,3,7,8- TCDD - We concur with your concerns regarding elevated levels of dioxin in the area west of the site (SS-15) as well as southeast of the site (SS-17, SS-18). We suggest that access be limited in both areas. As SS-15 crosses the property line and as we have no information of achieving non-detectable levels surrounding SS-15, and as available data do not indicate if 197 ppb is the highest or lowest level in the area, additional on-site and off-site sampling is recommended to determine the extent of the contaminated area. Access to this generally contaminated area should be restricted until a non-detect perimeter has been established. A fence to preclude access and possible steps to control possible migration until the dioxin can be removed are recommended. Surface sampling is appropriate. Southeast SS-17 and SS-18 have a perimeter of non-detects. Access should be limited and migration controlled. As levels are much lower, and the area is well-defined, an appropriate sign should preserve the area until the product is removed.

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2. HSL organics and pesticides. A categorical assessment that the presence of pesticides at this site represents an imminent and significant public health threat cannot be made based on both the lack of a QA/QC document as well as the difficulty with analyzing composite sampling. We suggest that surface samples be location and chemical specific in areas where levels exceed 100 ppm. A decision concerning the eventual fate of these locations must await the results of an extent of contamination investigation of the surface soils at the site.

Once this additional sampling data and QA/QC packet are reviewed we would be happy to re-evaluate the site. I hope you will find these comments useful.



Stephen Margolis, Ph.D.

cc:

George Buynoski  
Edwin Kent Gray  
Henry Longest, EPA